

### **REMARKS**

The Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed March 28, 2008 have been carefully considered. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. No claims have been amended and no new matter has been added. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

#### **Claim Rejections**

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 12-16, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,358,093 to Phommachanh et al. (hereinafter "Phommachanh") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,767,338 to Dennis et al. (hereinafter "Dennis"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, at least two input contacts in a first row and at least two input contacts in a second row are connected to output contacts in each of at least one plug connector.

As admitted on page 4 of the Office Action, Phommachanh does not disclose or suggest at least two input contacts in a first row and at least two input contacts in a second row are connected to output contacts in each of at least one plug connector. Rather, Phommachanh discloses a modular jack assembly that *switches* between a first configuration, in which the plug connectors are isolated from the two rows of contacts, thereby allowing through signal transmission between the contacts, and a second configuration, in which each plug connector is connected to a contact in one of the rows, thereby allowing pass-through connections to be made. See *Phommachanh*, Abstract.

Dennis does not overcome the shortcomings of Phommachanh since modifying the connections of the jack assembly of Phommachanh to the configuration shown in Dennis would change the operation of the jack assembly and render the jack assembly inoperable for its intended purpose. "If proposed modification would render the prior art invention being modified unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, then there is no suggestion or motivation to make the proposed modification." See MPEP § 2143.01 (V.) (citing *In re Gordon*, 733 F.2d 900, 221 USPQ 1125 (Fed. Cir. 1984)). Connecting one plug connector to contacts in both rows would

neither isolate the plug connectors from the contacts nor allow pass-through connections to be made between the contacts in the rows.

For at least these reasons, Phommachanh would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 1, even in view of Dennis. Claims 2-12 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-12 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 13 recites, in part, a plug connector electrically coupled to at least two input contacts of a first row and at least two input contacts of a second row via a printed circuit board.

As admitted on page 6 of the Office Action, Phommachanh does not disclose or suggest a plug connector electrically coupled to at least two input contacts of a first row and at least two input contacts of a second row. Dennis does not overcome the shortcomings of Phommachanh for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Phommachanh would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 13, even in view of Dennis. Claims 18-20 depend from claim 13 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 13 and 18-20 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 14 recites, in part, at least two insulation displacement terminal contacts in a first row and at least two insulation displacement terminal contacts in a second row being connected to output contacts in each RJ-style connector.

As admitted on page 4 of the Office Action, Phommachanh does not disclose or suggest at least two input contacts in a first row and at least two input contacts in a second row are connected to output contacts in each of at least one plug connector. Dennis does not overcome the shortcomings of Phommachanh for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Phommachanh would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 14, even in view of Dennis. Claims 15-17 depend from claim 14 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 14-17 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 6 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phommachanh, as modified [according to Dennis], as applied to claim 1, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,419,526 to Fair et al. (hereinafter "Fair"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and is allowable over the combination of Phommachanh and Dennis for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Fair does not overcome the shortcomings of Phommachanh and Dennis. Fair does not disclose how the configuration in Phommachanh can be modified to match the configuration in Dennis without destroying the functionality of the switching jack assembly of Phommachanh.

For at least these reasons, Phommachanh would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 6, even in view of Dennis and Fair. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 6 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 19 depends from claim 13 and is allowable over the combination of Phommachanh and Dennis for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 13. Fair does not overcome the shortcomings of Phommachanh and Dennis for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 6.

For at least these reasons, Phommachanh would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 19, even in view of Dennis and Fair. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 19 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 9-11, 17, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phommachanh, as modified [according to Dennis], as applied to claim 1, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,929 to Kamarauskas et al. (hereinafter "Kamarauskas"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 9-11 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over the combination of Phommachanh and Dennis for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Kamarauskas does not overcome the shortcomings of Phommachanh and Dennis. Kamarauskas does not disclose how the configuration in Phommachanh can be modified to match the configuration in Dennis without destroying the functionality of the switching jack assembly of Phommachanh.

For at least these reasons, Phommachanh would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claims 9-11, even in view of Dennis and Kamarauskas. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 9-11 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 17 depends from claim 14 and is allowable over the combination of Phommachanh and Dennis for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 14. Kamarauskas does not overcome the shortcomings of Phommachanh and Dennis for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 9-11.

For at least these reasons, Phommachanh would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 17, even in view of Dennis and Kamarauskas. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 17 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 20 depends from claim 13 and is allowable over the combination of Phommachanh and Dennis for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 13. Kamarauskas does not overcome the shortcomings of Phommachanh and Dennis for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 9-11.

For at least these reasons, Phommachanh would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 20, even in view of Dennis and Kamarauskas. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 20 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

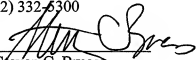
**Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 28, 2008

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